GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6638
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2005
COST EFFECTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR DESALINATION OF SEA WATER
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Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to develop a cost effective technology to desalinate sea water to produce potable drinking water in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the technology used for desalination of sea water will be cost effective as compared to other methods used for producing quality drinking water?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a)&(b): There is no proposal, at present, with the Ministry of Urban Development to develop a cost effective technology to desalinate sea water to produce potable drinking water in Gujarat.

(c): It is estimated that the capital cost of producing drinking water by desalination process would be about twice as that of drinking water produced by conventional methods. The operation and maintenance cost by desalination process is about 10 to 20 times that of production of water by conventional methods since desalination process involves huge power requirement, replacement of semi-permeable membranes, use of chemicals for de-scaling and mineralisation, etc.